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DISPATCH	SECRET	REF ID: A7160
TO (Chief of Station, Havana)		19-126-3
FROM Chief, WH		2 NOV 59
Operational/PLANS Political Organizer - Edward G. Tichenor (P)		RE 43 - (KNOW IT ONE)
Station comments by cable		MARKED FOR INDEXING
		NO INDEXING REQUIRED
		INDEXING CAN BE ADDED BY QUALIFIED HQ DESK ONLY

1. The senior PLANS Staff has recruited a number of individuals who have had extensive experience in politics, particularly as campaign managers and political organizers. Very recently one of these organizers was sent (to India) ²⁴ where he was in contact with the Station and the two principal agents of a political action project. In addition to his conversations with these individuals he also traveled around the area and talked to a number of unwitting individuals prior to meeting again with Station personnel and the principal agents. As a result of his conversations and of his delving into the local political scene, he was able to come up with an exceedingly informed assessment of the local political scene as well as concrete recommendations in regard to the organization of the political action factions being supported by PLANS, plus recommendations as to how they should proceed toward meeting their immediate problems, which included the melding of a number of divergent factions into a cohesive organization capable of united action against the Communists at the polls. The Station was pleased with the results almost to the letter in their recommendations to Headquarters.

2. It is Headquarters' feeling that Edward G. TICHENOR, described in Paragraph 4 below, could perform a very useful service in Cuba similar to that which the organizer mentioned above performed (in India). If provided with a suitable cover story, TICHENOR could visit Antonio VANCEA (who we understand is now recovering from a recent automobile accident), Aureliano SANCHEZ Arango and other regional and national political leaders. On the basis of his discussions with them he should be able to come up with a number of practical suggestions which would be of value in implementing AMATEL and other future political action projects. Two advantages which an organizer of this type offers to a field station are, first, that he is a specialist in the details of practical politics—a broad and complex field of endeavor—and second, that he talks to fellow politicians as a non-official practitioner of that art and is unimpaired by any overt connection with COPEN.

3. It is proposed, therefore, that TICHENOR be sent to your Station on TNY for 30 days to consult with Station personnel and to talk to VANCEA, SANCHEZ, and others. We should like to have your comments on this proposal as well as whatever ideas you may have on what cover story TICHENOR could use during his talks with the political leaders involved. It is the belief of Headquarters that, once the initial contacts are established, perhaps through direct introductions by the Station, a natural affinity of interest between TICHENOR and the Cubans will serve to establish rapport quickly. Although the TNY of TICHENOR would be of value chiefly in connection with AMATEL, we would prefer that he be sent immediately, before final project approval. ⁰⁸

4. TICHENOR was born in Denver, Colorado, 1920. BA, University of Denver, 1944; Graduate School of Business, Harvard University, 1944-1945; LL.M. Harvard Law School, 1948; graduate study, Universidad Nacional de Mexico, 1953. He is a practicing attorney and has had a great deal of political experience. He ran unsuccessfully for a high office on the Democratic ticket in California in 1958. He is a Phi Beta Kappa; was president of the Harvard Law School Forum and has published a number of articles on law and labor. He is an American citizen of Mexican parents, who speaks native Mexican Spanish and has a typical Mexican appearance; he could pass for a Mexican. He has on several occasions visited in ⁰⁸

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Cuba and at the time of his recruitment evinced great interest in the situation in Cuba and asked the recruiter what action, if any, GARCIA was taking in Cuba. This was an unsolicited inquiry as Cuba had never been mentioned in the course of recruitment. Needless to say, his recruiter made no statement which would indicate any active role on the part of GARCIA.

5. A cabled reply is requested.

OLIVER G. GILBERT

2 November 1959

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